

1821-1912; U.S. philanthropist; founder of the American Red Cross (1881)

Bar-ruch (bə rook') **Bernard Man'nes** (man'əs) 1870-1965; U.S. financier & statesman

Bar-uch (ber'ak) [Heb., lit., blessed] *Bible* 1. Jeremiah's scribe: Jer. 36:4-6 2. a book of the Old Testament Apocrypha attributed to him

bar-y-on (bar'ē an', ber'-) *n.* [*< Gr. barys, heavy (see GRAVE¹) + (ELECTR)ON*] one of a class of heavy atomic particles, including the proton, neutron, and the hyperons

ba-ry-ta (bə rit'a) *n.* [ModL. *< ff.*] 1. barium oxide 2. barium hydroxide — **ba-ryt'ic** (-rit'ik) *adj.*

ba-ry-tes (-ēz) *n.* [ModL. *< Gr. barytēs, weight < barys, heavy*] same as **BARITE**

bar-y-tone (bar'ə tōn', ber'-) *adj., n.* same as **BARITONE**

bas-al (bā'sl) *adj.* 1. of, at, or forming the base 2. being the base or basis; basic; fundamental 3. *Bot.* growing from the base of a stem — **bas'al-ly** *adv.*

basal anesthesia *Med.* anesthesia induced as a preliminary to further and deeper anesthesia

basal metabolism the quantity of energy used by any organism at rest; amount of heat produced by the human organism fourteen to eighteen hours after eating and when at complete rest in a warm environment for thirty to sixty minutes but not asleep: it is measured by the rate (**basal metabolic rate**) at which heat is given off, and is expressed in calories per hour per square meter of skin surface

ba-salt (bə sōlt'; bās'ōlt, bas'-) *n.* [earlier *basaltēs < L., a dark Ethiopian marble, term used by Pliny for basanites < Gr. basaniēs, species of slate used to test gold*] 1. a dark, tough, fine-grained to dense, extrusive volcanic rock commonly occurring in sheetlike lava flows 2. a kind of unglazed, black pottery designed by Josiah Wedgwood: also **ba-salt'ware** — **ba-sal'tic** (bə sōlt'tik) *adj.*

bas-cule (bas'kyool) *n.* [Fr., a seesaw] a device balanced so that when one end is lowered the other end is raised

bascule bridge a kind of drawbridge counterweighted so that it can be raised and lowered easily

base¹ (bās) *n., pl. bas'es* (-ēz) [ME. *< OFr. bas < L. basis, BASIS*] 1. the thing or part on which something rests; lowest part or bottom; foundation 2. the fundamental or main part, as of a plan, organization, system, theory, etc. 3. the principal or essential ingredient, or the one serving as a vehicle [paint with an oil *base*] 4. anything from which a start is made; basis 5. a goal, starting place, or safety point in certain games; specif., *Baseball* any of the four goals which must be reached safely one after the other to score a run 6. the point of attachment of a part of the body [the *base* of the thumb] 7. a center of operations or source of supply; headquarters, as of a military operation or exploring expedition 8. a) the bottommost layer or coat, as of paint b) a makeup cream to give a desired color to the skin, esp. in the theater 9. *Archit.* the lower part of a column, pier, wall, etc. 10. *Chem.* a substance which forms a salt when it reacts with an acid; in terms of the theory of the dissociation of electrolytes, a compound, such as sodium hydroxide, which liberates hydroxyl ions in aqueous solutions; in terms of the modern theory of acids and bases, a substance that removes hydrogen ions (protons) from an acid and combines with them in a chemical reaction 11. *Dyeing* a substance used for fixing colors 12. *Geom.* the line or plane upon which a figure is thought of as resting [the *base* of a triangle] 13. *Heraldry* the lower portion of a shield 14. *Linguist.* any morpheme to which prefixes, suffixes, etc. are or can be added; stem or root 15. *Math.* a) a whole number made the fundamental number, and raised to various powers to produce the major counting units, of a number system; radix b) the number that when raised to the logarithm of a given number produces the given number c) in business, etc., a figure or sum upon which certain calculations are made — *adj.* forming a base — *vt.* **based, bas'ing** 1. to make or form a base or foundation for 2. to put or rest (on) as a base or basis [to *base* a guess on past experience] 3. to place or station (in or at a base) — *☆off base* 1. *Baseball* not touching the base 2. [Slang] taking a position, attitude, etc. that is unsound or in error — *☆touch all the bases* to deal with all related details — *☆touch base* (or *bases*) to be in communication or contact

SYN.—**base**, as compared here, refers to a part or thing at the bottom acting as a support or underlying structure [the *base* of a lamp]; **basis**, conveying the same idea, is the term preferred for nonphysical things [the *basis* of a theory]; **foundation** stresses solidity in the underlying or supporting thing and often suggests permanence and stability in that which is built on it [the *foundation* of a house]; **groundwork**, closely synonymous with **foundation**, is principally applied to nonphysical things [the *groundwork* of a good education]

base² (bās) *adj.* [ME. & OFr. *bas < VL. bassus, thick,*



BASCULE BRIDGE

classical or cultivated [*base* Latin] 5. of comparatively low worth [iron is a *base* metal, gold a precious one] 6. debased or counterfeit [*base* coin] 7. a) having the low feudal status of vassal b) held by one having this status [*base* tenure] 8. [Archaic] low in height; short 9. [Archaic] of servile, humble, or illegitimate birth 10. [Obs.] low or inferior in place or position 11. [Obs.] same as **BASS¹** — *n.* [Obs.] same as **BASS¹** — **base'ly** *adv.* — **base'ness** *n.*

SYN.—**base** implies a putting of one's own interests ahead of one's obligations, as because of greed or cowardice [*base* motives]; **mean** suggests a contemptible pettiness of character or conduct [his *mean* attempts to slander her]; **ignoble** suggests a lack of high moral or intellectual qualities [to work for an *ignoble* end]; **abject** implies debasement and a contemptible lack of self-respect [an *abject* servant]; **sordid** connotes the depressing drabness of that which is mean or *base* [the *sordid* details of their affair]; **vile** suggests disgusting foulness or depravity [*vile* epithets]; **low** suggests rather generally coarseness, vulgarity, depravity, etc., specif. in reference to taking grossly unfair advantage [so *low* as to kick a cripple's crutch]; **degrading** suggests a lowering or corruption of moral standards [the *degrading* aspects of army life] — **ANT.** noble, moral, virtuous

base-ball (bās'bōl') *n.* ☆1. a game played with a hard, rawhide-covered ball and wooden bat by two opposing teams of nine players each: it is played on a field with four bases forming a diamond-shaped circuit which a runner must complete to score a run ☆2. the ball used

base-board (-bōrd') *n.* 1. a board or molding covering the edge of a wall next to the floor 2. any board at or forming a base

base-born (-bōrn') *adj.* 1. of humble birth or origin 2. of illegitimate birth 3. mean or ignoble in character or spirit

base-burn'er, base-burn'er (-bur'nər) *n.* any stove or furnace in which more coal is fed automatically from above when that at the base is consumed

base hit *Baseball* a play in which the batter hits the ball and gets on base without benefit of an opponent's error and without forcing out a runner already on base

Bas-el (bā'z'l) 1. city in NW Switzerland, on the Rhine: pop. 213,000 2. canton of NW Switzerland: 179 sq. mi.; pop. 397,000

base-less (bās'lis) *adj.* having no basis in fact; unfounded — **base'less-ness** *n.*

base level *Geol.* 1. the level below which a particular stream cannot erode its bed 2. the theoretical limit below which dry lands cannot be eroded; sea level

base line 1. a line serving as a base; specif., *Surveying* a horizontal line measured with special accuracy to provide a base for survey by triangulation ☆2. *Baseball* the unmarked lane, six feet wide, between any two consecutive bases: a base runner must normally stay within this lane 3. *Tennis* the line at the back at either end of the court

☆base-man (-mən) *n., pl. -men* (-mən) *Baseball* an infielder stationed at first, second, or third base

base map an outline map on which data may be plotted

base-ment (bās'mənt) *n.* [*BASE¹ + -MENT*] 1. the foundation or lower part of a wall or structure 2. the lowest story of a building, below the main floor and wholly or partly below the surface of the ground

ba-sen-jī (bə sen'jē) *n.* [Bantu *< ba-*, plural prefix + *senji*, altered *< Fr. singe, a monkey*: so named because of the monkeylike tail and face] any of an African breed of small dog that has a silky, reddish-brown coat and does not make a true barking sound

☆base on balls *Baseball* same as **WALK**

base pay the basic rate of pay for a particular job exclusive of overtime pay, bonuses, etc.

☆base runner *Baseball* any member of the team at bat who is on base or is trying to reach a base

bas-es¹ (bās'ēz) *n. pl. of* **BASE¹**

bas-es² (bās'sēz) *n. pl. of* **BASIS**

bash (bash) *vt.* [echoic; akin to (? <) ON. **basca*, to strike] [Colloq.] to strike with a violent blow; smash (in) — *n.* 1. [Colloq.] a violent blow ☆2. [Slang] a gala event or party

— *have a bash at* [Slang] to make an attempt at

Ba-shan (bā'shan) *Bible* fertile region east & northeast of the Sea of Galilee, in ancient Palestine

ba-shaw (bə shō') *n.* [see **PASHA**] same as **PASHA**

bash-ful (bash'fəl) *adj.* [(A)BASH + -FUL] 1. timid, shy, and easily embarrassed 2. showing an embarrassed timidity — **SYN.** see **SHY¹** — **bash'ful-ly** *adv.* — **bash'ful-ness** *n.*

bash-i-ba-zouk (bash'ē bə zōōk') *n.* [Turk. *bashi-bozuq < bashi, headdress + bozuq, disorderly, unkempt*] a member of the notoriously brutal 19th-cent. Turkish irregulars

Bash-kir (bash kir') *n., pl. -kirs', -kir'* 1. any member of a Turkic Moslem people of SW R.S.F.S.R. 2. their language

BASIC (bā'sik) *n.* [*B*eginner's *A*ll-purpose *S*ymbolic *I*nstruction *C*ode] a simplified digital computer language that utilizes common English words and algebra

bas-ic (bā'sik) *adj.* 1. of, at, or forming a base; fundamental; essential 2. constituting a basis or introduction; elementary [*basic* military training] 3. a) *Chem.* of, having the nature of, or containing a base; alkaline b) designating, of, or resulting from a process of manufacturing steel in which the refractory lining of the furnace is a basic sub-

